



## FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Move Over Florida Enforcement Wave Successful*** **Nearly 15,000 warnings and citations issued during the weeklong educational campaign.**

**Tallahassee**-Florida law enforcement officers have been working hard to enforce the Move Over Law since it became official in 2002. The law requires drivers to **move over** one lane whenever an emergency vehicle on the side of the road has emergency lights activated. If moving over is not an option, the drivers must simply **slow down** at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

Compliance with Florida's Move Over Law is critical for the safety of law enforcement officers and other emergency personnel working on highways. A statewide Move Over Law Task Force was formed to develop strategies to better educate the public about the law and to better enforce it. The enforcement wave was a recommendation of the task force.

During the week long campaign from June 23-29, law enforcement agencies statewide issued more than 4,500 citations to Move Over Law violators and more than 10,000 warnings, which included Move Over violations and other offenses.

"This is a true testament to what can be accomplished when law enforcement officers across the state team up with a common goal", said Florida Highway Patrol Director Colonel John Czernis. "But this effort doesn't end here. We will continue to enforce this life saving law and we are going to continue to educate the public. We'll save more lives through enforcement and education."

How important is this effort? During the five-year period of 1996-2000, motorists in Florida crashed into working law enforcement vehicles that were stopped or parked along Florida roadways 1,793 times, resulting in five deaths and 419 injuries.

"This was a successful week. We appreciate the efforts of all law enforcement officers statewide. We believe when people learn of this law, they will help us protect our law enforcement officers and first responders, so the key is education," said Executive Director Electra Bustle.

Law Enforcement, first responders, and roadside service personnel remind you to  
**Move Over. Slow Down. Save Lives.**